

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00077 121419Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 MMS-01 EA-06 NEA-09 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIEP-01 /109 W

----- 125226

R 111730Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1929

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PORS, NS

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE AND THE RESTLESS ASIANS

REF: A. PARAMARIBO 529 B. PARAMARIBO A-57 OF NOV. 15, 1974

1. MINPRES ARRON RECENTLY ANNOUNCED SURINAM WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT ON DAY TO BE DETERMINED BETWEEN NOV. 20 AND 30, 1975. IN DOING SO, RULING CREOLE COALITION (NPK) DISPLAYED UNCHARACTERISTIC SENSITIVITY TO LOCAL ASIAN FEELINGS, SINCE NOV. 19 DATE ON WHICH NPK DEFEATED FORMER INDIAN-DOMINATED ADMINISTRATION. ARRON DECLARED IN UNUSUAL TV STATEMENT AIMED AT MAJORITY ASIAN POPULATION (EAST INDIAN, INDONESIAN, CHINESE) THAT GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL PRINCIPLE OF GOS, INDEPENDENCE NOT CREOLE AFFAIR BUT NATIONAL ONE, CONSTITUTION NOT GOS DOCUMENT BUT NATIONAL ONE BASED ON CONSULTATION WITH ALL ELEMENTS, MEMBERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED ON PROFESSIONAL GROUNDS, NOT ETHNIC, AND GOS IS FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, NOT DICTATORSHIP. PRESIDENT WILL BE FIGURE-HEAD WITH SAME POWERS AS PRESENT GOVERNOR.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00077 121419Z

WM STATEMENT, VERY LONG OVERDUE, FOLLOWS PERIOD OF ASIAN MASS MEETINGS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND EVEN RUMORS OF INSURGENCY WHICH HAVE MADE UNMISTAKABLE POINT TO GOS THAT MOST INDIANS, MANY INDONESIANS AND CHINESE SERIOUSLY DISAFFECTED WITH LARGELY CREOLE GOVERNMENT AND APPREHENSIVE OVER INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS. WHILE ARRON SPEECH ACCURATELY REFLECTED SOME ASIAN CONCERNS, OTHERS STEM FROM DISAGREEMENT WITH GOS COMMERCIAL INTERVENTION AND FEELING AMONG INDIANS AND CHINESE WORSE TO COME AFTER INDEPENDENCE; GOS HIRING PRACTICES FAVORING BLACKS, LEADING TO INDONESIAN ANGER OVER LACK OF PATRONAGE DESPITE MEMBERSHIP IN COALITION; INCREASING CONFIDENCE OF CREOLE GOVT. IN FACE OF INDIAN AND CHINESE FEELING THEY KEEPING ALLEGEDLY LESS INDUSTRIOUS CREOLES AFLOAT.

3. AS NEW YEAR APPROACHED, ASIANS WERE CLEARLY BUILDING UP TO CONFRONTATION WITH NPK GOVERNMENT. THERE WERE RUMORS OF CLANDESTINE INDIAN TRAINING ACTIVITIES, INEPTLY AIRED BY GOS ON BASIS UNCONFIRMED POLICE REPORT, WHICH PROVISIONALLY DISCOUNTED BY SECURITY SERVICES BUT NONETHELESS CHARGED ATMOSPHERE. GOS PROMISED "PROPER ACTION" WHILE VHP INDIAN ULTRAS DECLARED HARD LINE POLICY IN DEFENSE OF INDIAN INTERESTS. ON HEELS OF THIS, NORMALLY DOCILE INDONESIANS ACQUIRED TO EVERYONE'S ASTONISHMENT A SPOKESMAN AND ORGANIZER IN "SOEMO" SOEMOHARDJO, DISAFFECTED HEAD OF INDON SECTION OF CREOLE'S OWN NPS, KEYSTONE PARTY OF COALITION. SOEMO ATTACKED COALITION FOR IGNORING INTERESTS OF INDONESIANS AND BEGAN TO STIR UP MAJOR COMMUNITY LOWEST ON ECONOMIC TOTEM POLE WITH CHARGES OF CREOLE DISCRIMINATION AND DUTCH NEGLECT. IN SHOW OF STRENGTH, SOEMO ORGANIZED MASS PASSPORT REGISTRATION WITH THREAT TO EMBARK THOUSANDS OF INDONESIANS FOR HOLLAND AS VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN NPK AND TO ENROLL ON DUTCH DOLE AS REPAYMENT FOR YEARS OF COLONIAL EXPLOITATION.

4. MEANWHILE* INFLUENTIAL CHINESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, WORKED IN VAIN ON SINGLE CHINESE NPS MEMBER OF STATEN (AND HEAD OF NPS CHINESE SECTION) TO SHOW GREATER SOLIDARITY WITH INTERESTS WHICH ELECTED HIM, AND POSSIBLY TO CROSS AISLE TO VHP. MUCH OF ASIAN CRITICISM OF GOS WAS TARGETTED ON LEFTIST ECONMIN EDDIE BRUMA, WHOSE COMMERCIAL AND FARM PRICE CONTROL POLICIES SEEN AS ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARAMA 00077 121419Z

BENEFITTING CREOLES AND ANATHEMA TO CHINESE AND INDIANS.

5. THOUGH NOT YET PROVED, MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT GUIDING HAND BEHIND ASIAN FERMENT IS CHAIRMAN LACHMON AND ACTIVIST WING OF VHP WHICH WIDELY REPORTED TO HAVE WAR CHEST TO PROMOTE ASIAN CAUSES AND BRING CONCERNS TO FORE. VHP SPEAKERS REGULARLY REFER TO COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS WITH ASIAN BROTHERS WHO ON SIDELINES OF ECONOMIC DECISIONS AND INDEPENDENCE MOVE-

MENT. MOREOVER, DASIMAN, STATEN MEMBER AND HEAD OF SMALL INDON. PARTY ALLIED WITH VHP, IS SAID TO COUNSEL SOEMO ON AGITATION TACTICS. NPK HAS STRUCK BACK, REMOVING SOEMO FROM LEADERSHIP NPS INDON. SECTION AND PRODDING INDONESIAN MINAGRICULTURE SOEMITA INTO PUBLIC DISPUTE WITH FATHER WHEN JAVANESE PATRIARCH URGED INDONESIANS TO LEAVE INDONESIAN KTPI, IN COALITION WITH NPS, AND JOIN NEW ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION ALSO OPEN TO SIZEABLE INDIAN MUSLIM MINORITY. (HE SINCE REPORTEDLY APPOINTED SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN EFFORT BUY SILENCE.) DASIMAN HAS SINCE CHARGED THAT INDONESIANS BACKING SOEMO HAVE BEEN STRUCK FROM GOVT. ASSISTANCE ROLES.

6. NOISY FRACAS ESCALATED THROUGH JANUARY IN FORM OF COMPETITIVE MASS RALLIES OF KTPI COALITION ADHERENTS VERSUS SOEMO'S FOLLOWERS, AND HUGE DEMONSTRATION (FOR SURINAM) AND MARCH OF INDIANS WHO STREAMED IN FROM COUNTRYSIDE. REPORTEDLY, KTPI OUT-DREW SOEMO, WHILE TWENTY THOUSAND INDIANS CAME TO HEAR VHP LEADERS AND OBSERVE PRESENTATION TO GOVERNOR OF RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS (FREEDOM OF SPEECH, CULTURAL PRACTICES, RELIGION, PRESS), IMMEDIATE POST-INDEPENDENCE GENERAL ELECTIONS, ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN STATEN (GOS WANTS ONLY SIMPLE MAJORITY SINCE IT CANNOT MUSTER TWO-THIRDS), ARMY DRAWN FROM ALL RACES (MOSTLY CREOLE NOW), AND CONDEMNING RACIAL POLARIZATION ROOTED IN REFUSAL OF COALITION TO PERMIT GREATER ASIAN PARTICIPATION IN GOS POLICY DECISIONS AND INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS.

7. MEMBERS OF RECENTLY DEPARTED DUTCH REALM CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MISSION RECEIVED LACHMON WHO ELABORATED ON POINTS PARA 6 BUT LEFT IMPRESSION HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT TO FORCE GOS CONCESSIONS AND IS RESIGNED INDEPENDENCE IN 1975. INDONESIANS DID NOT SEEK AUDIENCE BUT SENT CABLE ALONG LINES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PARAMA 00077 121419Z

VHP RESOLUTION. DUTCH TAKE ASIAN COMPLAINTS SERIOUSLY, ONE MEMBER OF DELEGATION HINTING THAT DEVELOPMENT AID MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY GOS ATTITUDES TOWARD ACCOMMODATION WITH ASIANS.

8. COMMENT: ARRON'S TARDY EFFORT TO REASSURE ASIAN COMMUNITY ACCURATELY REFLECTED MANY, BUT NOT ALL, OF ITS LEGITIMATE CONCERNS REGARDING ITS POST-INDEPENDENCE POSITION. THESE ASSURANCES HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING THE STRIDENCY OF ASIAN, PARTICULARLY INDIAN, COMPLAINTS AND THEY ARE DETERMINED THAT DEEDS MUST FOLLOW THE MOLLIFYING WORDS. THIS HAS ALREADY OCCURRED IN ONE CASE, WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF FIVE INDIANS TO THE 19-MAN CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION.

9. THOUGH INDIAN OPPOSITION TO COALITION PROGRAMS HAS BECOME A COMMONPLACE, BUT NOT TO THE PRESENT DEGREE, NPK IS SURPRISED

AND VEXED AT AROUSAL OF INDONESIANS, HERE A HUMBLE COMMUNITY CUSTOMARILY DISMISSED AS SOMEWHAT FECKLESS AND CONSIDERED BY COALITION AS SAFELY CO-OPTED THROUGH TWO PRESTIGE-BEARING CABINET SEATS OCCUPIED BY LEADERS OF BIGGEST INDON. PARTY. ALTHOUGH SOEMO IS NO SUKARNO IN THE SPELL-BINDING FIELD, GOS WILL HENCEFORTH IGNORE INDONS AT THEIR PERIL AND WOULD DO WELL TO STUDY INDONESIAN HISTORY AS GUIDE TO EXTREMES TO WHICH THIS QUIET PEOPLE CAN GO WHEN GRIEVANCES BECOME UNBEARABLE.

10. BOTH CREOLES AND INDIANS HAVE REPUTATIONS AS VOLATILE GROUPS AND FORECAST IS FOR CONTINUED RACIAL TENSION. PRESSURES WILL INCREASE FOR FURTHER CREOLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ASIAN COMPLAINTS, AND FOR MEASURES TO ASSUAGE THESE. WHILE DUTCH MAY ENCOURAGE THIS, THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF THEIR ALTERING THE INDEPENDENCE TIME-TABLE IN THIS CONNECTION, BARRING SERIOUS CIVIL DISTURBANCES. MOREOVER, THERE IS NOT YET SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE UPON WHICH TO BASE A CONCLUSION THAT THE COALITION IS IN DANGER OF BEING SPLIT THROUGH DEFECTIONS IN THE STATEN OR VHP OVERTURES TO THE ANTI-BRUMA WING OF THE MODERATE NPS. FLANEGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, INDEPENDENCE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARAMA00077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750051-0496
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750254/aaaabvzt.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARAMARIBO 529, 75 PARAMARIBO A-57, 75 OF NO15, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDEPENDENCE AND THE RESTLESS ASIANS
TAGS: PINT, PORS, NS, (ARRON, HENDRICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006